

Rugby Canada
National Referee Certification Program
(NRCP)
2005



National Referee Certification Program 2005

At a recent meeting of the Referees and Laws Committee of Rugby Canada, the decision to adopt the IRB technical development programs, at levels 1, 2, 3 and 4, was endorsed.

The IRB recently published its “Introduction to Officiating” program. This is a new program and will, in future, be classified as Level One. The old Rugby Canada “Introducing Refereeing” course is now abandoned. The “old” level 1 becomes level 2, level 2 becomes 3 and 3 becomes level 4.

Using the IRB nomenclature we now have the following courses available:

- Level One Introducing Officiating
- Level Two..... Developing Officiating Skills
- Level Three.....Analyzing and Preparing Officials.
- Level Four..... Game Planning for Officials

Overview of Course Contents:

Level 1

Duration 6 Hours

- i) Game Knowledge
 - The charter, principles of rugby (team positions, structure of the game etc.)
 - Core Skills of the game and safety in contact (passing, kicking tackling, scrum, L/O etc.)
- ii) Planning
 - Match preparation
- iii) Management
 - Risk management and ethics, the role of the referee, communication, child and adolescent growth
- iv) Technical
 - Positional play
 - Touch judging

Level 2

- i) General Principles of Refereeing
 - Safety, Equity, Law, Communication, Fitness
- ii) Management
 - Strategies for the management of the major facets of the game, tackle, ruck, maul, scrum and L/O.
 - Offside/Onside.
 - Advantage.
 - Dealing with trouble.

Level 3

- i) Technical
 - Personal strategies for the management of the game.
 - Advantage and materiality.
- ii) Psychological
 - Mental preparation including goal setting, visioning, relaxation and the managing of pressure.
 - Learning styles.
- iii) Physiological
 - Physical fitness (aerobic and anaerobic).
 - Training schedules and Nutrition.

The development of a Personal Development Plan (PDP)

Level 4

- i) Technical
 - The changing shape of the game.
 - Refinement of personal strategies for managing scrum, L/O, tackle, ruck, maul, and open play.
 - Advantage.
 - Obstruction.
- ii) Working with Technology
 - Electronic communication. Protocols.

Review of P.D.P.

Certification recommendations

For full certification at a given level both course and practical components must be satisfactorily completed.

Level 1: Introduction to Officiating

This course is primarily intended for those individuals who wish to officiate but have little or no experience or knowledge of the game. As well as aspiring referees this group could include teachers who wish to introduce rugby into their school's curriculum at the elementary or middle school level and would need to be able to officiate at appropriate games. Also, parents, new to the game who wish to assist by officiating at appropriate games.

Appropriate games would be non or minimum contact games at pre and early teen age.

For certification:

- i) Level 1 course, successful completion
- ii) Referee games, be observed by a Provincial Coach/Advisor/Assessor and deemed a safe manager of the game.

Certification is valid for 2 years from the date of full qualification (course and practical completion)

Level 2: Developing Referee Skills

This course is for those individuals who wish to referee Club, University, College and High School games.

For certification:

- i) Level 2 course, successful completion
- ii) Referee games regularly, be observed by a Provincial Coach/Advisor/Assessor and deemed satisfactory.

Certification is valid for 2 years from the date of full qualification (course and practical completion)

Referees at this level of certification are recommended to become active members of their local society of referees.

Level 2 could be the entry level for those individuals who possess a sound knowledge of the principles of the game and wish to begin a career in officiating. If the individual has not completed Level 1 (Intro) a pre-requisite for entry at level 2 would be

- i) the successful completion of a reading assignment regarding "Risk Management and Child Adolescent Growth" and
- ii) the passing of a written test on the laws of the game and the reading assignment. This test would be administered by a Local/Provincial Referees Society.

Level 3: Analyzing and Preparing Officials

This course is for those wishing to officiate in elite level domestic games.

For certification:

- i) Level 3 course, successful completion
- ii) Referee games regularly, be coached and assessed by a Provincial and/or National Coach/Advisor/Assessor and deemed satisfactory.

Certification is valid for 3 years from the date of full qualification (course and practical completion)

Requirements for the maintenance of certification:

- i) Active membership in a local society of referees and
- ii) Development of PDP (copies sent to R+L committee, Director of Development)

Level 4: Game Planning for Officials

This course is for those wishing to officiate in elite level games, nationally and internationally.

For certification:

- i) Level 4 course, successful completion
- ii) Referee games regularly, be coached and assessed by a National Coach/Advisor/Assessor and deemed satisfactory.

Certification is valid for 3 years from the date of full qualification (course and practical completion)

Requirements for the maintenance of certification:

- i) Active membership in a local society of referees and
- ii) Annual review of PDP (copies sent to R+L committee, Director of Development)

Re-certification for levels 2, 3, and 4 can be obtained by attendance at approved workshops, clinics or conferences.

Appendix 1

Certification and/or Grade of Referee.

We need to differentiate between the level of *Certification* achieved by a referee and the *Grade* that he/she has been awarded by the appropriate body.

There are FOUR levels of certification (Levels 1,2,3 and 4) whereas there are SEVEN levels of Grade i.e. C1, 2 and 3, B1, 2 and 3 and A.

Grade C, 1, 2 or 3 (1 being the highest) as determined by the local or provincial society where appropriate.

Grade B , 1, 2 or 3 (1 being the highest) as determined by the provincial society.

Grade A as determined by the Refereeing and Laws committee of Rugby Canada.

The following is a recommended certification level for each grade of referee on the scale:

Grade of Referee	Recommended minimum Certification level
C3.....	Level 1
C2,1.....	Level 2
B3.....	Level 2
B2,1.....	Level 3
A.....	Level 4 to be completed as part of Panel Development.

Provincial societies might want to adjust these recommendations to suite their particular situation and needs. This is acceptable to the Refereeing and Laws committee since C and B grades are the prime responsibility of the provincial societies.

RC Focus group members should have a level 3 certification.

Should a referee relocate to another province his accorded grade shall be temporarily accepted in the new province until a new evaluation has been completed by that province.

Appendix 2

Course Conductors

All certification courses must be conducted by an IRB trained course conductor. A national registry of qualified conductors is kept by the Refereeing and Laws Committee and is available to provincial societies when courses at levels 1, 2, and 3 are required. Level 4 courses are the sole responsibility of the Rugby Canada Referees and Laws Committee for offering at appropriate times when the need arises.